

HOME EDITION

TUESDAY EVENING.

TOPEKA, KANSAS, MARCH 16, 1915.

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THIS EDITION 2 CENTS

## GIRL RELATES HER STORY OF LOVE, DEVOTION

Pretty Alma Stephenson on the Witness Stand Today.

Told of Relations With Van Sickle, Mayor of Olpe.

FIRST KISS IN CHURCH

"Put His Arms Around Me and Said He Loved Me."

Would Leave Love Letters at Store for Her, Is Charge.

IN HOTEL AT OSAGE CITY

Registered as "L. L. Wilson and Niece," She Testified.

Later at Ottawa, She Said, as "L. L. Wilson and Wife."

Details Brought Out in Preliminary Hearing Today.

A simple story of love and devotion for the man who she claims ruined her, was told this morning in the court of Topeka by pretty Alma Stephenson, 17 years old, when she was placed on the witness stand during the preliminary hearing of the case to tell her past relations with William H. Van Sickle, mayor of Olpe, Kan., charged with having improper relations with the witness. On the stand the witness told her story in simple words and showed little signs of emotion until after the trial when in the clerk's office she broke down and began to cry.

"I have known Van Sickle ever since I can remember," she told W. E. Atchison, county attorney, who conducted the case for the state. "He made love to me when I was just a little girl."

Monday evening the charge of violation of the Kansas white slave law, which was placed against Van Sickle Sunday, was dismissed and a new complaint charging the mayor of Olpe with having relations with the girl was sworn on following the preliminary hearing.

Van Sickle was bound over to the district court on a bond of \$5,000, which he gave. Alma Stephenson was placed under a bond of \$500 for appearance in the district court.

Met Him Alone.

"Did you ever meet Van Sickle alone at any time?" asked County Attorney Atchison in questioning the girl on the stand.

"Yes."

"When was the first time?"

"The first time I met him alone was on July 4, 1913."

"Where?"

"At my home."

"How did you happen to meet him?"

"A. The folks were in the country. I came home. He came."

"Did he know you were there alone?"

"A. Yes, sir."

"The girl said that Van Sickle saw her in town at the central office and asked her if he could come out."

Told Their Love.

"Did he show you any attentions?"

"A. He said he loved me. I told him I loved him."

"Did he kiss you?"

"A. Yes. He put his arms around me and told me that he loved me."

"When was the next time you saw him alone?"

"A. At the church in Olpe."

"Day or night?"

"A. In the evening about 7 o'clock."

Kissed in Church.

"What occurred at the church?"

"A. He kissed me and told me he loved me."

"Did he ever write to you?"

"A. Yes."

"How did the letters come, through the mail?"

"A. He would hand me a letter at the store."

(Continued on Page Two.)

Marine Rates Advanced.

New York, March 16.—Marine insurance rates to French and British ports within the field of operations of the German submarines have advanced today to almost double those prevailing last week. This was attributed mainly to the loss of the steamer Indian Prince with her \$750,000 cargo of cotton, which it was said swept away the profits of the war risk insurance on all cotton shipments to England and France since the war began.

Spain Will Not Play

Refuses Longer to Maintain Diplomatic Relations With Mexico.

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Substitute for Wine.

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Another incidental curiosity about Russian fare, is the fact that the American griddle cake makes its appearance in Russia for one week only in the whole year. That week is the one preceding Lent. The griddle cake is disguised as a special luxury under the name of "blini." It is eaten plentifully at any or all meals during the week.

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As the enormous fighting machine plunged into the ocean, she presented a strange contrast to the Delaware, launched in the same yards—the Newport News Shipbuilding company's yards in 1903.

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25 TONS OF STEEL

State Issues Contract for 73,200 Automobile Tags.

Local Bidders Couldn't Compete With St. Louis Firm.

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Contract for the new supply of tags was let to the Adams company of St. Louis, the lowest bidder. Two Topeka bidders, who had the contract, but were unable to compete with the foreign company. One local bidder was \$1,018.50 higher than the successful bidder, while the other was \$1,464 above the low mark.

The contract today calls for 63,600 automobile license plates and 9,600 motorcycle plates. Automobile tags this year will cost seven cents, wholesale, while the motorcycle plates will cost five cents. This is a total first cost of \$5,632 and does not include expense of addressing, mailing and preparing the record compiled in the secretary of state's office. To make the 1915 tags, 25 tons of steel will be used by the St. Louis firm. All the tags must be delivered before June 1, this year.

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